United Nations E/C.20/2012/5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2012

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Second session
New York, 13-15 August 2012
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee

Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report of the Secretary-General

The present paper summarizes the report that sets out the activities of a working group tasked with developing an inventory of issues for the Committee's consideration at its second session.[1] At its first session, the Committee of Experts considered that a detailed and comprehensive description of the issues that should be addressed in the coming years was indispensable to define the scope of the Committee's work and role in the future. The report summarizes the process by which the working group was formed and the mechanism of deliberation. Drawing upon detailed submissions and broad global geospatial consultation, the report describes the inventory of issues that have been collated and consolidated within the following nine thematic groups:

(a) Developing a national, regional and global strategic framework for geospatial information;

(b) Establishing institutional arrangements and legal and common frameworks;

(c) Building capability and capacity, especially in developing countries;

(d) Assuring the quality of geospatial information;

(e) Promoting data sharing, accessibility and dissemination;

(f) Embracing trends in information technology;

(g) Promoting geospatial advocacy and awareness;

* E/C.20/2012/1.

[1] The full report is available in the language of submission only from http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

12-36869 (E) 270612

Please recycle

(h) Working in partnership with civil society and the private sector;

(i) Linking geospatial information to statistics.

The inventory will serve as a reference document to inform the scope and possible timing of the workplan for the Committee in the coming years. The report also considers a selection of immediate and prioritized key issues that were seen as being the most relevant and important and as having the potential to make tangible progress in the near future. The Committee is invited to express its views on the inventory of issues and associated activities for consideration in its future work programme.

United Nations E/C.20/2012/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2012

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Second session
New York, 13-15 August 2012
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Consideration of a statement of ethics for endorsement by the global geospatial information community

Consideration of a statement of ethics

Report of the Secretary-General

The present paper provides a summary of the report for consideration on the start of a process to draft a statement of ethics for the global geospatial information community.[1] The report highlights that, in various intergovernmental discussions, the need for a statement of ethics and supporting code of conduct for the global geospatial information community has been raised as an important means to enhance the trust placed by the public on geospatial information. In addition, with the development of emerging practices such as crowdsourcing and volunteered information, there are acknowledged gaps in the legal and institutional frameworks that provide effective regulation or guidance for the capture, use and dissemination of geospatial information, which a statement of ethics will help to fill. The report provides examples of ethical standards and codes of conduct that currently exist in some related disciplines. It proposes a number of key elements that would need to be discussed and agreed upon by the geospatial information community. The Committee is invited to consider the need for a statement of ethics for the global geospatial information community and express its views on the process of its formulation.

---

* E/C.20/2012/1.

[1] The full report is available in the language of submission only from http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

12-36881 (E) 270612

Please recycle